

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printer comprising:

a print performing unit which can change a structure thereof and in which contents of an executable printing process change depending on the structure;

an apparatus name information storing unit which stores a plurality of apparatus name information as identification information of the apparatus coordinated with the structure; and

10 a request responding unit for transmitting the apparatus name information coordinated with the structure at that time when a prescribed request is received among the plurality of apparatus name information to an apparatus transmitting the request.

15

2. A printer according to claim 1, further comprising:

a rewriteable storing unit which stores a machine type designating value as information for designating any of the apparatus name information stored in the apparatus name information storing unit, wherein the request responding unit transmits the information designated from the plurality of apparatus name information by the machine type designating value stored in the rewriteable storing unit to the apparatus which transmits the request when  
20  
25 the request responding unit receives the prescribed

request.

3. A printer according to claim 2, further comprising:  
a rewriting unit for rewriting the machine type  
5 designating value stored in the storing unit to a value  
corresponding to a changed structure when the structure  
is changed.

4. A printer comprising:  
10 a print performing unit which can change a structure  
thereof and operates in either a state capable of a color  
printing or a state capable of only a monochromatic  
printing in accordance with the structure; and  
an output request responding unit for transmitting  
15 a printer name corresponding to the operating state of  
the print performing unit to an apparatus outputting an  
output request when the output request responding unit  
receives the output request of the printer name.

20 5. A printer comprising:  
a print performing unit which can change a structure  
thereof and operates in either a state capable of a color  
printing or a state capable of only a monochromatic  
printing in accordance with the structure; and  
25 an output request responding unit for transmitting

a device ID corresponding to the operating state of the print performing unit to an apparatus outputting an output request when the output request responding unit receives the output request of the device ID.

5

6. A printer according to claim 5, further comprising an output request responding unit for transmitting a device ID corresponding to the operating state of the print performing unit to an apparatus outputting an output request when the output request responding unit receives the output request of the device ID.

10

7. A printer operating as any one of a plurality of kinds of machines, the printer comprising:

15

a rewriteable nonvolatile storing unit for storing first information used at any time when the printer operates as any of the plurality of kinds of machines and second information whose contents are to be rewritten depending on as which type of machines of the plurality of types of machines the printer operates; and

20

a control part for rewriting only the second information stored in the nonvolatile storing unit to information for a different machine unit when an operation is to be started for the different machine from the machine used up to that time.

25

8. A printer according to claim 7, wherein the control part checks the structure of a self-device upon starting to determined whether or not the operation is to be started  
5 for the different machine from the machine used up to that time.

9. A printer according to claim 7, wherein the first information is information related to the number of prints  
10 formed in the past.

10. A printer comprising:  
a printing unit for a monochromatic printing;  
a receiving unit for receiving print job data;  
15 a determining unit for determining whether the print job data received by the receiving unit is monochromatic print job data instructing a monochromatic printing or color printing job data instructing a color printing;  
a printing control unit for processing the received  
20 print job data when the determining unit determines that the received print job data is the monochromatic print job data, and deleting the received print job data when the determining unit determines that the received print job data is the color print job data.

25

11. A printer according to claim 10 further comprising  
an information transmitting unit for transmitting  
information representing that the determining unit  
determines that the received print job data is the color  
5 print job data to a computer having a function of informing  
a user of a message corresponding to the information.

12. A printer comprising:

a printing unit capable of operating in a first state  
10 capable of only a monochromatic printing and in a second  
state capable of a monochromatic printing and a color  
printing;

a receiving unit for receiving a print job data;

a determining unit for determining whether the print  
15 job data received by the receiving unit is monochromatic  
print job data instructing a monochromatic printing or  
color printing job data instructing a color printing;  
and

a printing control unit for causing the printing  
20 unit to produce a printed material corresponding to a  
determining result of the determining unit based on the  
print job data when the printing unit operates in the  
second state, and causing the printing unit to produce  
a monochromatic printed material based on the printing  
25 job data which is determined as the monochromatic printing

job data by the determining unit and delete the printing job data which is determined as the color printing job data by the determining unit when the printing unit operates in the first state.

5